REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present Amendment is in response to the Office Action having a mailing date of November 15, 2005. Claims 1-14 are pending in the present Application. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 6. Consequently, claims 1-14 remain pending in the present application.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 6 to recite that the partition is both nonviewable and lockable from the operating system. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification, page 1, lines 13-21. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added.

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Applicants admitted prior art (AAPA) in view of IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin TDB-ACC-NO: NN9611103 (Bulletin). In so doing, the Examiner indicated that the Examiner believes the limitation regarding the use of the BIOS for the computer system did not change the scope of the claims. The Examiner also cited that the Bulletin's disclosure of adding "a feature to the likes of BootManager such that when the desired partition is selected, the user is prompted to enter a password for that partition before booting commences. By doing this, individual partitions may be protected from unauthorized access. . ." indicated that the BootManager was simply an interface to prompt the user for a password, not that the boot manager may query the use later in the boot process. The Examiner also indicated that the use of passwords for partitions in the Bulletin is renders obvious the use of passwords for sub-partitions.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection. Independent claim 1 recites a method for providing a trusted boot source, which allows a plurality of sub-partitions to be defined for the partition and provides a password for each of the sub-partitions. The password is required for a user to utilize a corresponding sub-partition as a boot source. Furthermore, the

password is queried for using the BIOS. The partition is defined to be nonviewable and lockable from the operating system. Claim 6 recites an analogous computer system.

Thus, independent claims 1 and 6 also recite that the partition, of which the subpartitions are part, is "nonviewable" from the operating system. Consequently, the partition may be considered to be analogous to a PARTIES (protected area run time interface extension services) partition. Claims 1 and 6 also recite that a password is required for each sub-partition by the BIOS of the computer system. As a result, subpartitions of the nonviewable and lockable partition may be accessed via passwords obtained by BIOS, which is active during preboot, at the initiation of startup of the computer system.

The AAPA in view of the Bulletin fail to teach or suggest utilizing the BIOS for providing a password for sub-partition(s) of a partition that is nonviewable and lockable from the operating system. As the Examiner has acknowledged, that although the AAPA describes booting from different sub-partitions and PARTIES partitions, the AAPA fails to teach or suggest the use of passwords.

The Bulletin does describe the use of passwords for booting partitions. Although it functions well for its intended purpose, the Bulletin describes using an additional utility, the BootManager, to use the passwords. In particular, the Bulletin states that the BootManager is a utility employed to partition the disk so that different operating systems can be selected at boot time. Moreover, the Bulletin states: "[t]he solution proposed to the example bootable problem above [individuals accessing certain partitions] is to add a feature to the likes of BootManager such that when the desired partition is selected, the user is prompted to enter a password for that partition before booting commences." Thus, although booting of the partition has apparently not yet commenced, the utility including the additional feature, the BootManager, has booted.

Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that booted code from the hardfile would be used to request a password and validate the password provided. Stated differently, booted code from the hardfile (e.g. the BootManager) makes the determination whether to ask for passwords and validates these passwords. Because the BootManager is a utility that is presumably booted code from the hardfile, these activities of the BootManager occur after the preboot. Consequently, the passwords are for a partition that is available after preboot. Such a partition would be viewable from the operating system.

Thus, if the AAPA were combined with the Bulletin, the combination could use the BootManager to request and validate passwords. However, because of the nature of the feature provided, these passwords would be for partitions, or sub-partitions, which are viewable from the operating system. Moreover, the passwords would be provided using the BootManager utility, rather than using BIOS during preboot. Consequently, the combination of the AAPA and the Bulletin would still fail to teach or suggest the method and system recited in claims 1 and 6. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 6 are allowable over the cited references.

Claims 2-5, and 11-12 depend upon claim 1. Claims 7-10, and 13-14 depend upon claim 6. Consequently, the arguments herein apply with full force to claims 2-5, and 7-14. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-5 and 7-14 are allowable over the cited references.

Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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